***PRESIDENT :** The Chief Secretary may explain that.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Sir, one or two instances having been brought to the notice of Government they ordered that it should not take place hereafter.

MR. MURUKKUMPUZHA V. KUNJUKRISHNAN (*Trivandrum cum Neyyatinkara*) : Sir, the Assistant Commissioners made so many appointments against the rules, and this matter was brought to the notice of Government during the budget session last time and the Excise Commissioner assured the House that he will enquire into the matter. I wish to know whether any enquiry has been made by the Excise Commissioner?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : Sir, that took place not during the last budget session but on a previous session this year.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know from the member whether in his opinion such appointments are made purposely by the Assistant Commissioner?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : I do not think it is so.

Scarcity of pure water on the Vembanad shores.

82. * **MR. K. R. NARAYANAN** (*Vaikom cum Kottayam*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the people living on the shores of the lake from Vaikom to Kumarakom are put to much hardship owing to scarcity of pure water ; and

(*b*) whether any measures to remedy the situation are being considered by Government?

MR. J. W. CHACKO : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Government are considering the desirability of providing tube wells in such places as a general measure and are, as a test, taking up the sinking of some tube wells in Kuttanad area.

Pepper market.

83. * **MR. K. R. NARAYANAN** : Will the Government be pleased to state the *nirak* rate of pepper during the years 1110 to 1116 and the duty imposed thereon in each year?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : A *statement containing the information is laid on the table.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN : ൧൧൧൦-ൽ ഉർവ്വ രൂപ കരുമുളകിന്റെ വിലയായിരുന്നപ്പോഴും ൧൧൧൯-ൽ ൈ രൂപ വിലയായിരുന്നപ്പോഴും കരുമുളകിന്മേൽ ഡ്യൂട്ടി ൧൦ രൂപയാണ് നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഈ ഡ്യൂട്ടി നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നതെങ്ങനെയാണെന്നു പറയുവാൻ ദയവുണ്ടാകുമോ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : അത് സ്ഥിരമായ ഡ്യൂട്ടിയാണ്. കമ്പോളവിലയനുസരിച്ചു മാറപ്പെടാവുന്നതല്ല.

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* *Vide* Appendix III.—page 267.

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MR. PADIYARA JOSEPH KUNJU : കണ്ടി ഒന്നിന ൻ രൂപയെ വില യുള്ളൂ എന്നവരികിലും ഫ ൊ രൂപതന്നെ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടിവരുമോ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: ഈ താരിപ്പുറേറ് നിലവിലിരി ക്കുന്നിടത്തോളം കാലം ഈ തുകതന്നെ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടിവരും.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN : മറ്റ്റേറ വിലയനുസരിച്ച് താരിപ്പുറേറ നിശ്ചയിക്കയല്ലേ വേണ്ടത്?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: മാക്റേറ റേറ വച്ച് ഡ്യൂട്ടി നിശ്ചയിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ താരിപ്പുവിലയുടെ ആവശ്യമില്ലല്ലോ. താരി പ്പുറേറ് അപ്പോഴപ്പോൾ മാററാവുന്നതല്ല.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN : നാളികേരത്തിന്റെ വില കൂട്ടുകയും കുറയു കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതനുസരിച്ച് ഡ്യൂട്ടി കുറയ്ക്കുകയും കൂട്ടുകയും ചെയ്യാറില്ലേ.

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: എപ്പോഴും അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യാറി ല്ല. അഞ്ചാറുകൊല്ലങ്ങൾക്കിടയ്ക്കോ മറേറാ ചിലപ്പോൾ അങ്ങനെ ചെ യ്യാറുണ്ട്.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN : ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള ഡ്യൂട്ടി കൂട്ടലാണെന്നു ഗവ ണ്മെൻറിനറിയാമൊ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സാമ്പത്തികനില യനുസരിച്ച് ഗവൺമെൻറിനു ഇതിൽ യാതൊന്നും ചെയ്യാൻ സാധിക്കു കയില്ല.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM : ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ താരിപ്പുവില എന്നാണു നിശ്ചയിച്ചതു?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : പ്രൊപ്പറിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച ഫ ൊ ഫ-ൽ ആണ്.

PRESIDENT : I think honourable members should realise what is at the back of the policy of Government so that not only this question but certain cut motions might also be considered from that point of view. Although it is not open to me to divulge what is taking place in detail, serious attempts have been made by this Government in respect of revision of the Interportal Convention on the ground that the conditions that obtained in 1865 are very different from the conditions to-day and that we should be entitled to be compensated by the Government of India for the loss of our right to tax imports according to our own exigencies and under present conditions. In order to enforce and strengthen our case it would be necessary for us to show that as much as possible of export duty has been derived and is being collected by the State notwithstanding which we suffer difficulties on account of the

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present state of the Interportal Convention. As those negotiations have been going on for some years it was hoped that with the emergence of the Federation the matter will be settled. But, Federation has for the time being receded and therefore it may be necessary to re-start those negotiations again, and steps are being taken for that purpose. Until those negotiations come to some kind of definite conclusion, it is not the policy of the Government to alter our present export duty and the quantum of export duty. Government are aware that the duty does produce grave injustices in some cases. But in the larger public interests it is essential for us to collect at the rates at which we have been collecting duties on these commodities in order that we may be able to point out that notwithstanding our best endeavours we are not able to get that aggregate revenue which we according to our contention are entitled to if the Interportal Convention were revised according to what we considered to be the dictates of commonsense and of equity.

Ascu Treatment.

84. ✻ **MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR** (*Tovala* cum *Agastiswaram*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the number of ascu treatment plants when Mr. Kamesam left Travancore service ;

(*b*) the number of plant operators now in service ;

(*c*) the number of days in which each plant has been worked in this year ;

(*d*) the quantity of timber that has undergone ascu treatment from 1-1-1116 to 30th Vykasi 1116 ;

(*e*) the average quantity of chemicals for the working of a plant a day ;

(*f*) the quantity of chemicals now in stock with the department ; and

(*g*) the quantity of chemicals spent from 1-1-1116 to 30th Vykasi 1116 ?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR : (*a*) Three.

(*b*) Three.

(*c*) 85,12, and nil, respectively.

(*d*) 16,352 c. ft. of timber and 27,224 sq. ft. of bamboo matting.

(*e*) 40 lbs.

(*f*) 7 tons and 14 cwts.

(*g*) 1 ton, 13 cwts. and 88 lbs.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know whether the *ascu* plant operators are given their pay for the full year ?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR : Yes.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : Have all the *ascu* operators work in that time ?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR : Those who have no work are given other duties to attend to.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know what is the nature of such duty allotted to them ?

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Appendix II.

Vide **Answer to Question No. 81.**

Statement, by caste, of the persons appointed in short vacancies by the Assistant Excise Commissioner, Mavelikara, during the period from Chingom to Kumbhom 1116.

A.	HINDU :	
	1. Brahmin	1
	2. Nair	19
	3. Other Specified Hindu	2
	4. Kammala	...
	5. Nadar	...
	6. Ezhava	1
	7. Cheramar	..
	8. Other Hindu	...
B.	MUSLIM	...
C.	CHRISTIAN :	
	1. Jacobite	2
	2. Marthomite	2
	3. Syriac Catholic	...
	4. Latin Catholic	...
	5. South India United Church	...
	6. Other Christian	...

Appendix III.

Vide **Answer to Question No. 83.**

Statement showing the price of pepper and the rate of duty thereon.

Year.	Price per candy.	Rate of duty.
	Rs.	
1110	142	Rs. 10 per candy.
1111	120	Do.
1112	111	Do.
1113	85	Do.
1114	92	Do.
1115	87	Do.
1116	71	Do.

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